

Attendance Matters

Framework: School absenteeism in primary grades is a strong predictor of dropping out. Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% (~18 days) of a year, is linked to academic and social disadvantages particularly among vulnerable students creating long lasting impact on the child and their peers. Chronic absenteeism is a complex problem impacted by a multitude of factors which include the child, parent and family circumstances.

Goals: working with at-risk and vulnerable students in grades K-3, the goal of Attendance Matters is to identify, monitor instances of chronic absenteeism, and to support students and families in attaining prompt and consistent attendance.

Program Description: At C-SP we believe that to be ready, able and motivated to learn students need their basic needs met through nutrition, nurturing environment, safe space, caring adults, and cognitive stimulation
Attendance Matters includes 3 core components:

- **Breakfast club** provides students with a consistent, and nutritious breakfast each day in a safe and supported environment, satisfying one of children's most basic needs
- **Intentional targeted outreach interventions** support students and families in sustainably overcoming barriers to prompt and consistent attendance. Outreach staff employ variety of strategies including: parent engagement, transportation solutions, school in reach with students and teachers, resources and referrals
- **Engagement and enrichment** through literacy, recreation and social/emotional activities allows students to develop academic, and social competencies to enhance confidence and connection to school, setting the core foundation for school success

Program Outcomes: By providing students with a nutritious breakfast, enriching activities, and a connection to caring adults we hope that:

- Students and their families will feel cared for, safe, supported and connected to their school.
- Students will be mentally and physically prepared for their day and able to academically, socially and emotionally benefit from being in school.
- Students and their families will recognize the importance of consistent attendance and form sustainable positive attendance habits.

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Program Donors:



District Impact: Attendance Matters program currently supports students at 15 inner city elementary schools. Modified programs which include breakfast, absentee support and school engagement also run in 6 inner city secondary schools.